Hindi as international language

†1280. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided to set up a World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius for promoting Hindi as an international language and institutionalizing World Hindi Conferences;

(b) if so, the action taken to set up World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius; and

(c) the progress made in this regard in the World Hindi Conference recently held in New York?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes.

(b) World Hindi Secretariat has been set up under a bilateral agreement between Government of India and Government of Mauritius. The first Secretary General of the Secretariat, appointed by the Mauritian side for a 3-year term took charge of the post in January 2007. The Deputy Secretary General will be from India. Government are in the process of selecting a suitable person for the post. A meeting of the Executive Board of the Secretariat took place in Mauritius on 24-25 May 2007. The recommendations of the Executive Board included setting up a website of the Secretariat, setting up Hindi Chairs in select universities, bringing out a quarterly newsletter and an annual Hindi magazine.

(c) In the Declaration of the World Hindi Conference, it has been suggested that Governments of India and Mauritius should extend all possible administrative and financial assistance to the Secretariat and should consider setting up of Regional Offices of the Secretariat in Delhi and in 4-5 countries. It has also been suggested that the Secretariat develop a website on "Vishwa Manch Per Hindi" in order to popularise Hindi.

Hosting NAM Summit

1281. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the attitude of the Indian Government towards NAM in the light of the statement by Ms. Condolezza Rice, U.S. Secretary of State;

(b) whether Government plan to host NAM Summit in India in near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In response to questions regarding reports on a statement by the US Secretary of State Dr. Condolezza Rice, MEA's Official Spokesperson has stated on

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.